

Date: February 22, 2021

Re: Planned use of Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA) Funds is as follows:

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe operating under 477 Plan will provide the following services in accordance with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe 477 approved plan and policies as applicable.

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide direct childcare services, including childcare subsidy assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farm and other food service workers, and/or other workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus? If yes, describe.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe does plan to use the CRRSA funds to provide direct childcare services including, but not limited to;

- Childcare subsidy assistance to essential or frontline workers during the response to coronavirus
- Seasonal treaty rights gathering and fishing
- Other essential tribal enterprise employees who are assuring the economic recovery for the Tribe

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies, and/or technical assistance to childcare providers to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies in line with guidance from State and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)? If yes, describe.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe 477 program will use CRRSA funds to provide resources for the following, but not limited to;

- Resources
 - Increased social/emotional support for both enrolled children/families and early childhood providers through tribal behavioral health services and tribal prevention partnerships using varied connections with Conscious Discipline and Tribal Touchpoints
- PPE Supplies
 - Sustaining purchase of PPE through the pandemic to include nitrile gloves/cloth and disposable masks (for double mask wearing)/disinfecting solutions/hand sanitizer
- Training and technical assistance to early childhood providers to support implementation of on-going health and safety practices and policies in line with the guidance from WA State/Kitsap County and Tribal health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to support the stability of the childcare sector to help childcare providers (program facilities and workforce) pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency? If yes, describe.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe 477 program will use CRRSA funds to, but are not limited to;

- Support the tribe's center offering child care services to pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency to allow for stability of the services offered to families on or near the Port Gamble Reservation.
 - Maintenance of HVAC system to assure air quality in center
 - Purchase of replacement commercial dishwasher and stove/oven to assure quality health and safety of nutrition services within center.
 - Paint classrooms and hallways needing upgrade with appropriate washable product.

The 477 program will follow the approved plan and any approved tribal policy that is applicable.

Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

As required in CRRSA, how does the lead agency plan to use a portion of funds appropriated in CRRSA to provide assistance to CCDF-eligible childcare providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe 477 program will follow their approved plan and policy and procedures. At this time PGST does not conduct a voucher program and support other centers or family home providers. In response to CRRSA Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe will form a task group that explores the feasibility of supporting CCDF-eligible child care providers (an example would be at the S'Klallam Community Church). However, this is not a viable option at this time with the limited funds that PGST is receiving from CRRSA.

Other

Does the lead agency plan to use a portion of CRRSA childcare funds for any other activities or assistance not described above? If yes, describe.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe approved 477 plan, approved waivers, and policy and procedures will be used to determine eligible expenses other than what is determined in the above statements.

- Support S'Klallam cultural activities (language/song/dance/other culture practices for healing) to assure that during the continued pandemic response enrolled children and families are connected to their sense of belonging. A few examples would be creation of our own S'Klallam collection of stories that are collected and produced into books that can be used for healing and future guidance during emergency responses (both from children, elders and other community members); develop YouTube S'Klallam productions of language/song/dance that can be easily viewed during times of isolation or restrictions
- Continue focus on supporting an indigenous framework of learning through creating outdoor learning environments for all ages in care. This includes in the fenced area and beyond the fenced area (example would be wooded trails/beach/forest areas). This approach supports guidelines during the pandemic response that encourage increasing time outside for optimum air quality and safety.

If the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe 477 program determines the funds will be used for construction, then a construction/renovation application will be sent in no later than July 1, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Cheryl Miller
Director, Children & Family Services
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe